



# Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

## **Dr. David P. Driscoll**

Former Massachusetts Commissioner of Education

Dr. David P. Driscoll was the 22nd Commissioner of Education for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He was appointed by the Board of Education on March 10, 1999.

Commissioner Driscoll has a 45-year career in public education and educational leadership. A former secondary school mathematics teacher, he was named Melrose Assistant Superintendent in 1972 and Superintendent of Schools in the same community in 1984. He served in that role until 1993, when he was appointed Massachusetts Deputy Commissioner of Education, just days after the state's Education Reform Act was signed into law. He became Interim Commissioner of Education on July 1, 1998, and was named Commissioner on March 10, 1999.

As Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Driscoll held several key leadership roles, both in the external affairs of the Department and in internal management. He was the Principal Investigator for the National Science Foundation's mathematics and science program in Massachusetts, PALMS, and was instrumental in 1997 in gaining the NSF's approval of a second five-year round of funding for this initiative. He was also appointed to oversee the implementation of the state agreement on management and governance of the Lawrence Public Schools.

As Interim Commissioner, Dr. Driscoll worked with Governor Cellucci, Senate President Birmingham and House Speaker Finneran to pass the state's "12-62 Plan," a law aimed at enhancing future educator quality. The program gained national recognition for its accelerated teacher education and bonus programs, both aimed at encouraging mid-career professionals to become classroom teachers.

As Commissioner, Dr. Driscoll has overseen the development of the state's curriculum frameworks, implementation and expansion of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS), the development of the state's School and District Accountability System and the development and administration of the Educator Certification Test and new licensure regulations.

These initiatives and others have led to consistent annual improvement in student achievement as measured by state standards (MCAS) national measures (NAEP, SAT) and international tests (TIMMS). In 2005 and 2007 Massachusetts was named the first state to ever earn the highest scaled score in the nation on all four NAEP exams. In 2008, Massachusetts' students performance on TIMSS was among the highest in the world, scoring second to Singapore in 4<sup>th</sup> grade Science.

Dr. Driscoll earned his Bachelor's Degree in mathematics at Boston College, his Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Salem State College, and his Doctorate in Education Administration from Boston College.

He is past president of the Harvard Superintendent Roundtable and the Merrimac Valley Superintendents Roundtable, was an elected member of the Executive Board of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, and was Vice President of the superintendents' association at the time of his appointment as Deputy Commissioner. Dr. Driscoll was President of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), and currently serves on several boards in Washington including the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB), the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, the K12 Advisory Board and the Alliance for Excellent Education.

He is the youngest of 10 children. His wife, Kathleen, is a reading teacher at North Shore Vocational High School. The Driscolls have four children and three grandchildren. They live in Melrose, Massachusetts.